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tillers from owning places or fixtures for the retail of liquors. Michigan passed a search and seizure law patterned after the Ohio law and restricted saloons to one for 500 population. The Michigan county option law was first extensively tried in the spring election when twenty-seven counties voted dry and seven voted wet. The anti-saloon league in New York centered their efforts on a bill giving local option to cities. The measure was unfavorably reported. In Illinois a bill passed the house separating incorporated cities and towns from the rest of the township for local option purposes. This measure would weaken the local option law seriously and its passage is bitterly opposed. The problems in New Jersey turned on law enforcement but no law was enacted except one prohibiting advertising signs for liquor on the exterior of saloons, and one providing for commissions for controlling inebriacy through a sort of probation. The commissions were given power of enforcement of the laws against selling to habitual drunkards. Connecticut had the question of a referendum on a state-wide prohibition before its legislature besides regulative measures limiting the number of saloons, prohibiting screens and requiring that saloons have but one entrance.

The United States congress has had bills before it for many sessions regulating the shipment in interstate commerce of liquor into prohibition territory. Such a bill was passed by the house on February 17, 1909. The necessity of such a measure from the standpoint of enforcement of state liquor laws is obvious.

The Canadian provinces have also had the regulation of the liquor traffic before their legislatures. Local option laws have been enacted or amended in a number of the provinces during the session of 1908 and 1909. Other provinces of the British empire deal with the question largely by local option and Great Britain is coming to that method also, though for the present the question of compensation for damages to owners of saloon property has prevented the passage of the licensing bill.

JOHN A. LAPP.

Legislation in Nebraska. The most important enactments of the Nebraska legislature of 1909 related to guarantee of bank deposits, annual corporation license tax, Oregon plan for electing United States senators, non-partisan election of judges and superintendents of public instruction, changing from closed to open primaries and providing for state conventions to frame party platforms before the primaries, physical valuation of railroads, daylight saloon law, electing precinct assessors,

hospital care of indigent consumptives at county expense, and a two years' residence requirement for divorce.

The recent legislature marked a reaction in the rural regions against the strong centralizing tendencies of the previous legislatures, especially in the field of administration. This reaction did not accomplish all that it desired, but registered its greatest victory in the enactment providing for popular election of precinct assessors to take the place of deputies appointed by the county assessor. The most significant tendency was toward extension of the state's functions and larger state expenditures, especially for schools and agricultural experiment work.

The two topics of fiercest controversy were liquor legislation and the acceptance of the Carnegie educational pension by the state university. The legislature was divided almost equally on both these propositions. Mr. Bryan threw his powerful influence into the balance against the acceptance of the Carnegie fund. It was beaten by a very close vote in the house after passing the senate. County option was defeated, but in its stead an act closing all saloons in the state between the hours of 8 p.m. and 7 a.m. passed. Liquor legislation goes over as "unfinished business" and will undoubtedly be one of the issues in the election of the next legislature.

ADDISON E. SHELDON.

Municipal Charter Revision—Boston. A finance commission was appointed in July, 1907, to investigate and consider the financial condition of Boston. After a thorough investigation, the commission submitted a report in January, 1909. This report contains an analysis of the city government as at present constituted, the actual administration of 1906 and 1907, a discussion of remedies proposed, changes recommended by the commission, and a draft of proposed amendments to the city charter. Some of these proposed amendments have already become law by action of the legislature, and the others will be voted upon at the November election. The bill as passed by the legislature makes provision for one of two plans. One of these embodies the essential features of the plan for amendments recommended by the finance commission. Probably the most radical feature of this plan is that the mayor is to be subject to recall after two years. His term of office is for four years, the term at present being for two.

At the state election in November of the second year of the Mayor's term, the question as to whether there shall be a recall election is to be submitted. If a majority of the qualified voters registered is in favor of such election, then in January following (at the regular municipal